

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 Sub 131  
62 1. ~~An orthopedic appliance, comprising a wedge for placement under a~~  
2 ~~toe, the wedge having a top surface adapted to support the toe and a lower surface,~~  
3 ~~wherein an angle of inclination between the top surface and the bottom surface is~~  
4 ~~between 1 and 60 degrees.~~

1 10<sup>3</sup> 2. The orthopedic appliance of claim 1, wherein the angle of inclination  
2 is between 10 and 20 degrees.

1 J 3. The orthopedic appliance of claim 1, wherein the wedge is formed  
2 integrally as part of a piece of footwear.

1 10<sup>3</sup> 4. The orthopedic appliance of claim 1, wherein the wedge comprises  
2 an elastomeric material.

1 10<sup>3</sup> 5. The orthopedic appliance of claim 1, wherein the wedge comprises a  
2 material selected from the group consisting of: cork, leather, resilient foam, and  
3 thermoplastic material.

1 6. The orthopedic appliance of claim 1, wherein a concave depression  
2 is formed in the top surface.

1 7. The orthopedic appliance of claim 1, further comprising at least one

2 fastener.

1 8. The orthopedic appliance of claim 7, wherein the at least one  
2 fastener comprises a plurality of bands disposed adjacent the top surface.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the at least one fastener comprises  
2 a sheath disposed over the top surface.

1 Sub  
2 B2  
3 ~~10.~~ An apparatus for orthopedic treatment, comprising:  
4 a top surface adapted to support a toe;  
5 a bottom surface; and  
6 a support which maintains a toe at an angle of inclination between  
7 the top surface and the bottom surface.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the angle of inclination is  
2 between 1 and 60 degrees.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the angle of inclination is  
2 between 10 and 20 degrees.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the support is formed integrally  
2 as part of a piece of footwear.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein a concave depression is formed  
2 in the top surface.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising at least one fastener.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 10<sup>15</sup>, wherein the at least one fastener<sup>LAB</sup>  
2 comprises a plurality of bands disposed adjacent the top surface.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 10<sup>15</sup>, wherein the at least one fastener<sup>LAB</sup>  
2 comprises a sheath disposed over the top surface.

1 <sup>Sub</sup>  
2 <sup>83</sup> 18. A method for improving stability of a foot during ambulation,  
3 comprising:  
4 providing a wedge having a top surface and a bottom surface; and  
5 elevating a toe to a predetermined angle of inclination using the  
wedge.

1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein the angle of inclination is between  
2 approximately 1 and 60 degrees.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the angle of inclination is  
2 between 10 and 20 degrees.

1 21. The method of claim 18, further comprising fixing the bottom surface of  
2 the wedge to a piece of footwear.

1           22.   The method of claim 18, further comprising fixing the wedge to the toe  
2   using a plurality of bands.

1           23.   The method of claim 18, further comprising fixing the wedge to the toe  
2   using a sheath.

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